

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

In the Office Action, claims 2-4 are pending.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Japanese Laid Open Application 11-334154 to *Hasegawa et al.*

Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2-4 are rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 2-4 are pending for further consideration.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claim 1 is moot in light of its cancellation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim Informalities

Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claims 2-4 be withdrawn because claims 2-4 are rewritten in independent form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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